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is planning another voyage to the Malay Archipelago for the express purpose of studying the question of fructification, and we may hope that it then will be settled.

**A New Volume of De Toni's Sylloge.**—The *Sylloge Algarum*,<sup>1</sup> by J. B. De Toni, begun in 1889, has now reached Vol. iv, of which the first section is just issued. This volume will contain the Florideæ, arranged on the Schmitz-Hauptfleisch system, as given in Engler and Prantl. A work like the *Sylloge*, giving a more or less complete diagnosis, in its appropriate systematic place, of every published species of alga, with references not only to the original publication but also to all the important works in which the species is mentioned, saves an immense amount of time otherwise needed in looking over the very scattered literature of the algæ. It should not be forgotten, however, that the *Sylloge* is not intended to be a critical revision, and any attempt to determine species of a large or difficult genus by it would give very uncertain results. In a work of this extent, so largely references, some omissions and errors are probably unavoidable, and it is hardly safe to copy any reference without verification; but perhaps this is the only safe rule, even with the most accurate works.

**Studies on Phytoplankton.**—The study of the plankton, the minute animal and vegetable life distributed through the sea, at all depths, has attracted much interest recently and seems likely to have important practical results. Recent publications, by Cleve<sup>2</sup> and others, indicate that the pelagic flora and fauna of each great region has a character of its own, and that by observing the changing character at any given locality it may be possible to ascertain from what oceanic region the currents are flowing at the time. At certain points on the coast of Sweden, for instance, the water at one time of the year shows the characteristics of the southern part of the German ocean; at another part of the year, the characters of the Arctic and North Atlantic. That a more thorough knowledge of the laws governing these changes may give some indication of the causes of the migrations of food fishes seems not improbable; the practical value of such knowledge would be very great.

<sup>1</sup> De Toni, J. B. *Sylloge Algarum hucusque cognitarum*, vol. iv, Florideæ, Sectio I, Familiæ I–IX. Patavii, 1897.

<sup>2</sup> Cleve, P. T. A Treatise on the Phytoplankton of the Atlantic and its Tributaries, and on the Periodical Changes of the Plankton of Skagerak. Upsala, 1897.

Cleve, P. T. Karaktäristik af Atlantiska Ocean vatten på grund af dess mikroorganismer. Oefvers. K. Vetensk. Akad. Forhandl., Stockholm, 1897.